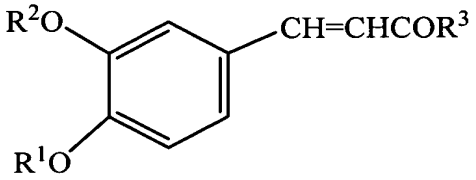
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4: (Previously Presented) A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R^3 represents a hydroxyl group, or an amide bond residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that where R^3 is a hydroxyl group one of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, while the other of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, and

wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R^1 or R^2 are derived from C_{1-40} alcohols or aryl alcohols.

Claim 8: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the acyl group of R^1 or R^2 is derived from C_{1-40} carboxylic acids.

Claims 9 - 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein R^3 is an amide bond residue.

Claim 12: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the amide bond residue is derived from water soluble amino acids.

Claim 13: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

Claim 14: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 15: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is orally.

Claim 16: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

Claim 17: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

Claim 18: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 19: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is parenterally.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 were previously canceled.

Claim 4 has been amended.

The amendment of Claim 4 is supported by original Claim 1 and the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 3, line 23 to page 5, line 10 and page 6, line 6 to page 11, line 8.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.